



Agenda

Special Meeting of Council

Tuesday 30 April 2013 at 7:30pm

Queenscliff Town Hall
50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff

Distribution

Councillors

Cr. Helene Cameron (Mayor)
Cr. Bob Merriman (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Graham J Christie, JP
Cr. Susan Salter
Cr. Sue Wasterval

Officers

Lenny Jenner - Chief Executive Officer
Kerrie Weippert-Rowe - General Manager Corporate & Community Services
Phil Josipovic - General Manager Planning & Infrastructure
Allison Chaloner – Senior Accountant

In accordance with the Borough of Queenscliffe Local Law No 1, 2010, the information contained within this Agenda is for the confidential and privileged use of Councillors until at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

THIS MATERIAL DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF COUNCIL



1.	OPENING OF MEETING	4
2.	PRESENT & APOLOGIES	4
3.	PECUNIARY INTEREST & CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES	4
4.	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE & EXTERNAL RELATIONS	5
4.1	Draft Council Plan 2013-2017.....	5
4.2	Draft Rating Strategy	10
4.3	2013/14 Draft Budget.....	15
5.	CLOSE OF MEETING	19



Appendices

Appendix 1	Borough of Queenscliffe draft Council Plan 2013-2017	4.1	Draft Council Plan 2013-2017	Under separate cover
Appendix 2	Draft Rating Strategy	4.2	Draft Rating Strategy	Under separate cover
Appendix 3	2013/14 Budget including the Strategic Resource Plan	4.3	Draft 2013-14 Budget	Under separate cover



1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

3. PECUNIARY INTEREST & CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Councillors:

Officers:



4. GOVERNANCE, FINANCE & EXTERNAL RELATIONS

4.1 Draft Council Plan 2013-2017

File: QG054-01-01

Report Author: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

The Borough of Queenscliffe draft Council Plan 2013-2017 (refer **Appendix 1**) is presented for consideration pursuant to section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Background

The legislative requirements relating to Council Plans are contained in Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act). Section 125 (2) of the Act specifies as follows:

A Council Plan must include—

- (a) the strategic objectives of the Council;*
- (b) strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years;*
- (c) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;*
- (d) a Strategic Resource Plan containing the matters specified in section 126;*
- (e) any other matters which are prescribed by the regulations.*

Statutory Requirements

Under section 125 of the Act, a Council must prepare and approve a Council Plan within the period of 6 months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is the later. This section of the Act also states that a person has a right to make a submission under section 223 of the Act on the proposed Council Plan.

Section 223 of the Act includes provisions that Council must publish a public notice specifying the matter in respect of which the right to make a submission applies, specifying the date by which submissions are to be submitted, being a date which is not less than 28 days after the date on which the public notice is published and stating that a person making a submission is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting to be heard in support of the submission.

Local Government Victoria and the Victoria Auditor General's Office have flagged their intention to monitor and audit the standard of Local Government performance reporting. In order to ensure that the Council Plan meets these future requirements Council engaged Mr Mark Davies, one of



the members of the Local Government Victoria Taskforce, assigned to improve Local Government Council Plan performance reporting to review the draft Council Plan as presented. The draft Council Plan as presented is consistent with the intent of the future requirements of performance reporting by Local Government.

Council Plan

The draft Council Plan 2013-2017 is framed around five key Strategic Objectives, reflecting Council's aims to achieve:

1. A healthy, involved and creative community
2. A vibrant local economy
3. A unique natural environment
4. A well-planned and attractive place to live and visit
5. A proactive and accountable Council.

The draft Council Plan includes:

- A set of Strategies identifying what Council aims to undertake to achieve Council's Strategic Objectives over the period 2013 to 2017;
- A number of Strategic Indicators that Council will monitor and report on regarding its progress in seeking to achieve its Strategic Objectives; and
- Specific Initiatives to be implemented in 2013/14, the first year of the Council Plan.

Progress against the Council Plan will be reported to Council on a quarterly and annual cycle. The performance against the Council Plan including outcomes in relation to the strategic indicators will be included in the Council's Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government.

The draft Plan identifies the Strategic Objectives and Strategies that respond to medium term needs and aspirations of the Borough community over the next four years and the specific initiatives that will be implemented in 2013/14, the first year of the Council Plan.

The Plan includes a range of Strategies that express Council's intentions to:

- Support local clubs and community organisations
 - Encourage and recognise volunteers
 - Support older residents and people with disabilities to access services and live independently
 - Promote shared use of community facilities
 - Increase tourism visitation to the Borough
 - Increase access to and occupancy of Council managed holiday accommodation
 - Protect the natural environment and significant vegetation
-



- Promote recycling and minimise waste
- Enhance walking and cycling routes and encourage use by the community and visitors
- Preserve and value the Borough's significant history and heritage
- Value and draw on the skills, knowledge and views of the local community
- Ensure sustainable financial management and maximise external funding opportunities
- Minimise rate increases
- Maximise return on Council assets
- Increase revenue sources by developing Council managed Caravan Parks
- Ensure the continuing independence of the Borough.

The Plan underlines the leadership role of Council and the important relationship with residents and local community organisations that is necessary to successfully implementing the priorities articulated in the Council Plan. The Plan also reinforces the partnership with other levels of Government particularly in planning and funding priority projects identified in the Plan.

Specific initiatives that will particularly focus the attention and energies of Council and staff in 2013/14 include actions that Council will implement to:

- Support local organisations plan and implement community recreation, sport, and civic activities and events;
 - Produce and implement the Borough of Queenscliffe Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017;
 - Provide an accredited, responsive aged and disability support service with a 'zero waiting' list;
 - Maintain the accreditation of the Visitor Information Centre
 - Improve the level of Council, community, business and visitors information available through Council's electronic media;
 - Work with neighbouring municipalities, G21 and the State Government to develop the G21 Public Transport Plan.
 - Support local organisations and volunteers undertaking projects designed to protect and enhance the natural environment;
 - Work with local and regional organisations and neighbouring Councils to reduce waste and promote recycling in the Borough and enhance the green waste disposal capacity of the region;
 - Implement the Council's Corporate Carbon Neutral Action Plan and facilitate community participation in the implementation of the Community Carbon Neutral Action Plan;
 - Complete review of the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme and commence statutory amendment process;
-



- Develop a Heritage Strategy to increase community awareness of and provide direction to the Council regarding the Borough's significant heritage;
- Implement Council's asset renewal and maintenance program for Council owned and managed community buildings, open space, roads, paths and drainage;
- Establish reference groups to advise Council on major community projects as determined by Council;
- Review Council assets to improve return on investment;
- Ensure adherence to guidelines on prudent management of debt, cash and asset renewal.

In 2013/14 emphasis will also be placed on undertaking capital works projects designed to improve the amenity and assets of the local community. The 2013/14 Capital Works Program totalling \$4,376,591 is detailed in the Council Plan. Highlights include:

- Completing the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve Masterplan;
- Completing a Masterplan and stage 1 development plan for Queenscliff Kindergarten;
- Completing a Masterplan for the Botanic Gardens;
- Completing the Masterplan for the Hesse Street Hub in Queenscliff;
- Completing a Plan for the future of the Queenscliff Lighthouse Reserve and Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve;
- Completing the design of the Hesse, Wharf and Symonds Streets roundabout in Queenscliff and the construction of the Admans Street, Point Lonsdale Road roundabout in Point Lonsdale;
- Completing stage 1 construction of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Revitalisation project and seeking funding from other levels of Government for stages 2 and 3 of this development;
- Seeking funding from other levels of Government to develop the Queenscliff sport and recreation precinct project;
- Seeking funding to undertake a Development Plan for Fort Queenscliff;
- Working with Bellarine Railway to upgrade the Queenscliff Historic Railway;
- Seeking Government funding to upgrade the Queenscliff Senior Citizens Centre to incorporate the functions and needs of the Queenscliff Sea Scouts, and
- Implementing Council's annual asset renewal program for Council's buildings, roads, open space and drainage.

Concluding Comments

Council has spent considerable time crafting the draft Council Plan that will guide Council's decisions and action over the period 2013-2017. In preparing the draft Council Plan, Council sought community input through a community survey. The community response was outstanding with 278 surveys returned. Further analysis indicates:



- 49% female and 51% males completed the survey;
- 51% permanent residents and 37% non-permanent ratepayers and 2% organisations completed the survey (with 10% of respondents not completing this question);
- 50% of respondents were aged 65+ years, 31% were aged 50-64 years, 9% were aged 35-49 years and 1% 18-34 years (with 9% not completing this question).

Council has reviewed all survey responses in finalising the draft Council Plan.

The Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Initiatives detailed in the draft Council Plan provide a clear direction for the next four years and specific set of initiatives in 2013/14 to guide Council in improving the health and wellbeing of the Borough community, the experience of visitors to Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, the unique natural environment, the planning policies and local heritage and the accountability and governance of the Borough of Queenscliffe Council.

Recommendation:

Having complied with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 that Council:

- 1. Endorse the contents of the draft Council Plan 2013-2017 (refer Appendix 1);**
- 2. Give public notice by way of newspaper advertisements, and calls for public submissions by no later than Thursday 30 May 2013 in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- 3. Present the draft Council Plan 2013-2017 at two public information sessions to be held at 7:00pm on Monday 6 May 2013 at the Queenscliff Town Hall, Queenscliff and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at Boroondara Council Chambers, City of Boroondara Municipal Offices, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell.**



4.2 Draft Rating Strategy

File: QG054-01-01

Report Authors: General Manager, Corporate & Community Services
Senior Accountant

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Rating Strategy (refer **Appendix 2**) for Council's initial consideration prior to advertising the draft strategy and seeking community feedback.

Introduction

The purpose of a rating strategy is to explain Council's approach towards rating under Part 8 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Rates and Charges on Rateable Land). A rating strategy sets out the factors considered by Council when selecting the rating system for determining how money will be raised from properties within the Borough.

Background

A rating strategy sets out the factors considered by Council when determining the rating system to be applied to properties within the Borough.

In developing a rating strategy, Council seeks to balance service levels in accordance with the needs, means and expectations of the community. Rating levels are set to adequately resource Council's role, functions and responsibilities. In setting rates, Council gives primary consideration to its strategic objectives, sound financial management principles, annual budget considerations, the current economic climate and other external factors and the overall impacts upon the community.

The Borough's rating strategy also considers the differential rates and charges applied by Council, compared with those charged by other coastal and neighbouring councils.

Discussion

Council's proposed rating strategy is framed around the following key elements:

1. Capital improved value (CIV) of properties and differential rating to determine the distribution of total rates levied;
 2. Application of the general or residential rate to vacant land;
 3. Application of differential rates to:
-



- a. Commercial properties:
 - i. Commercial businesses;
 - ii. Properties having six or more bedrooms which are rented out as holiday accommodation;
 - b. Tourist accommodation properties, that is properties having five or less bedrooms which are rented out as holiday accommodation;
4. Rating concessions for cultural and recreational ratepayers;
 5. An additional pensioner concession of \$20, above the government funded pensioner rebate, per eligible ratepayer property. Eligibility includes application on a principal place of residence and with only one rebate per property, and
 6. An additional charge for additional garbage bins (if requested).

There are several options used by other Local Government Authorities that are not proposed as part of this draft Rating Strategy. These include:

- No application of a fixed Municipal charge;
- No application of a fixed Garbage or Green waste disposal charge.

Other information incorporated into Council's draft rating strategy includes details regarding the property valuation process, how rates are calculated, rate instalment dates and payment options, interest on arrears, the government funded pensioner rebate, deferred payments and financial hardship.

State Government Imposed Fire Services Property Levy

Council's draft rating strategy provides a limited explanation of the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) in the absence of comprehensive information from the State Government. It is important to note that the levy will be payable by all rateable and non-rateable property owners and will comprise a fixed charge plus an ad valorem (a rate based on the value of property). At this stage, the fixed charge has been set by the State government at \$100 for residential properties and \$200 for commercial properties, however the rate in the dollar for the ad valorem has not been announced (and is not expected to be set until 31 May 2013).

It is Council Officer's understanding that the fixed charge for the proposed differential known as 'tourist accommodation' properties would be levied at \$200 (not the \$100 residential fixed charge which many people may assume). The fixed charge is based on AVPCC Codes (Australian Valuation Property Clarification Codes) which are set by the State Revenue Office. Council has raised concerns with the State Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria regarding the likely impact of this on tourist accommodation properties that fall within the 'commercial' fixed charge area.



Council Plan

The draft rating strategy is in line with the key strategy in the Council Plan to '*provide accountable governance and long term sustainable financial management*'.

Legislative

The draft rating strategy complies with the following legislation:

- Part 8 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Rates and Charges on Rateable Land)
- Section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Differential Rates)
- Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Interest on Rates Arrears)
- *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*
- *Valuation of Land Act 1960*
- Section 2 of the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983*

Council has drawn on a number of resources in preparing the draft including referring to strategies of other Councils with similar profiles; engaging the services of Mark Davies in his advisory role to Local Government Victoria; and seeking legal advice from Law Firm, Maddocks.

Financial

In framing its four year Council Plan and annual budget, Council determines the necessary funds required to achieve its strategic objectives, deliver the range of services and undertake the priority infrastructure improvements. This process identifies the level of rates that need to be raised. The key role of a rating strategy is to define the way in which total rates will be levied and distributed across all its ratepayers. The rating strategy describes the principles, objectives, rationale and methodology for applying rates to different classes of properties in the community. While there are no financial implications for Council in this strategy, the strategy does recommend a number of changes to Council's existing approach that have benefits to the community including:

- A lower differential rate for commercial properties – reducing from 35% to 30%;
- A lower differential rate for tourist accommodation properties from 35 % to 10%;
- An additional pensioner rebate of \$20 per eligible rateable property;
- A rating concession of 75% to those volunteer managed and operated, not for profit community clubs that are located on rateable land.

Social

No specific items to report.



Environmental

No specific items to report.

Risk Management

No specific items to report.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

Under Section 80C (1) (2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council staff and persons engaged under a contract to provide advice or a report to a meeting of the Council or a special committee, and who have a direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice or report relates, must disclose the type of interest when providing the advice or report and before the advice or report is considered by the Council or the committee.

Officers involved in developing the report have no direct or indirect interests.

Conclusion

Council has undertaken a thorough review of its current approach to rating that has resulted in this draft Rating Strategy. In reviewing its current rating arrangements, Council has considered the range of charges that may be applied within the legislative parameters of Local Government and the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating recently released by the State Government. Council has also considered the differential rates and charges currently applied by Council, compared with those charged by other coastal and neighbouring councils and Council's with similar tourist profiles.

This draft Rating Strategy includes a set of recommended directions in relation to future rating principles, objectives and practices. In summary, the draft strategy recommends that Council:

- Continue to use Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the methodology for valuing properties;
 - Continue its practice of applying the general or residential rate to residential vacant land given the comparatively low number of vacant lots and the comparatively high land values within the Borough;
 - Apply a 30% differential rate to commercial properties including businesses with six or more bedrooms rented out as holiday accommodation, given the additional funds that Council allocates to visitor information services and tourism promotion and the benefits that flow to commercial properties;
 - Apply a 10% differential rate to properties providing tourist accommodation that have five or less bedrooms rented out as holiday accommodation, given the additional funds that Council allocates to visitor information services and tourism promotion and the lesser benefits that flow to smaller scale tourist accommodation properties (rate payers);
-



- Apply a rating concession of 75% (ie. require payment of 25% of the general rate) to those volunteer managed and operated, not for profit community clubs that are located on rateable land.
- Apply an additional charge (as detailed in the Council budget fees and charges schedule) for any additional bin for the purposes of garbage collection, recycling and disposal;
- Introduce an additional pensioner concession of \$20 per eligible ratepayer property, above that funded by other levels of government under the Municipal Rates Concession Scheme, and that this be applied consistent with applicable pensioner definitions used by other levels of government (refer to definitions in the draft Rating Strategy), given the financial pressures impacting on pensioners with fixed incomes;
- Continue its current practice and not introduce a fixed municipal charge or fixed garbage charge (including State Government landfill levy) as part of its rating strategy, given the regressive nature of a fixed charges and the comparatively high percentage of older residents that are retired and likely to be on fixed incomes;
- Continue its advocacy to Barwon Region Waste Management Group and neighbouring Councils seeking the development of a regional green waste disposal facility to enable a bin-based fortnightly green waste collection for residential properties in the Borough;
- Continue the current practices in respect to collection and administration of rates including its present approaches to payment options, interest on arrears and overdue rates, deferred payments, financial hardship and rate payment by instalments.

Finally, the draft Rating Strategy highlights the pending imposition of the State Government Fire Services Property Levy, which comes into effect on 1 July 2013. Under new State legislation, Council has no choice but to collect this State Government levy via its municipal rates. This heralds a significant change to the role of local government in collecting this State Government levy. The scale and impact of this levy will not be known until it is declared in May or June 2013.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Draft Rating Strategy as presented at Appendix 2;**
- 2. Give public notice by way of newspaper advertisements and calls for public submissions by no later than Thursday 30 May 2013;**
- 3. Include a presentation on the Draft Rating Strategy at the two public information sessions on the draft Council Plan 2013-2017 and draft 2013/14 Budget at 7:00pm on Monday 6 May 2013 at the Town Hall in Queenscliff and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at the City of Boroondara Municipal Offices in Camberwell.**



4.3 2013/14 Draft Budget

File: QG054-01-01

Responsible Officers: General Manager Corporate & Community Services,
Senior Accountant

Introduction

The Borough of Queenscliffe 2013/14 draft Budget is presented to Council for consideration pursuant to section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989. The Strategic Resource Plan is also presented as part of the Budget pursuant to section 126 of the Local Government Act 1989.

A copy of the 2013/14 Budget including the Strategic Resource Plan is located at **Appendix 3**.

Statutory Requirements

The Local Government Act 1989 requires Council to prepare a budget for each financial year and provide the opportunity for people to make a submission under section 223 of the Act on any proposal contained in the budget.

Legislative requirements relating to 4 year Strategic Resource Plans are contained in section 126 of the Local Government Act 1989. Section 126 specifies that:

A Council must—

- (a) review the Strategic Resource Plan during the preparation of the Council Plan; and*
- (b) adopt the Strategic Resource Plan not later than 30 June each year.*

Council Plan

The 2013-2017 draft Council Plan has been prepared around five key Strategic objectives:

- A healthy, involved and creative community
- A vibrant local economy
- A unique natural environment
- A well-planned and attractive place to live and visit
- A proactive and accountable Council

This plan has directly informed the development of the 2013/14 draft budget.



2013/14 Budget including Strategic Resource Plan

Council has prepared a draft Budget for the 2013/14 financial year which seeks to balance the community's capacity to meet the cost of rate increases with the demand for improved services and facilities, renewal, upgrade and maintenance of infrastructure and continued management of the Borough's natural environment.

It is proposed that general rates increase by 4.5% for the 2013/14 financial year. While the Strategic Resource Plan indicates 4.5% rate increases from 2013/14 to 2016/17, this is reviewed each year, particularly as Council considers the challenges of providing services and meeting the costs associated with asset renewal in light of current circumstances.

The 4.5% rate increase will raise total rates of \$5,866,072, including \$10,000 generated from supplementary rates. The increase will go toward maintaining service levels and undertaking capital works including funds to address the asset renewal needs of the Borough.

The expected operating result for the 2013/14 year is a surplus of \$1,822,000 and the comprehensive result, which takes into account non-operating items such as library equity share and gain/(loss) on asset sales, is a surplus of \$1,812,000.

The underlying result is an important measure of financial sustainability, and one-off items can often mask the operating result (above). The underlying result excludes items such as capital grants and contributions, asset sales and other non-operating abnormal items. An adjustment is also made to "match" the timing of grant funding received in prior years with the years in which project expenditure is undertaken, to reduce the impact of otherwise large surpluses in prior years and large deficits in future years.

Whilst the underlying result is adjusted for timing differences with regard to grant funds, Council's budget also includes operational (rate funded) dollars which may not be spent in the financial year in which budget was allocated. Should this occur, funds are held in reserve accounts on the Balance Sheet, for expenditure in future years. This does have an impact on the underlying result and the 2013/14 Budget is estimated to be an underlying deficit of (\$330,000) when expenditure occurs, for which funds were received and underlying surpluses recorded in previous years. Note however that this expenditure is fully funded by cash received and held in reserve, that is to say the accumulated cash result is not affected by the deferral of such expenditure to future years.

Services are delivered in a range of programs to meet community needs and achieve Council's strategic objectives. Estimates for 2013/14 have been provided on the basis that the majority of programs will continue at the same service levels, noting some programs will have higher levels of service where additional State and/or Federal government funding is provided, an example being additional funding recently received for the delivery of personal aged care services.

This budget has been developed through a process that included extensive community feedback via the Council Plan Community Survey. Included in the 2013/14 budget are a number of projects identified through this process. Assessment on a priority basis and according to funding availability has resulted in a range of initiatives to be implemented in the 2013/14 year.



The capital works program of \$4,376,591 is funded by \$1,819,000 from external grants, \$95,000 in community contributions, \$823,500 from Council operations, \$1,080,591 from reserves (grant funding received in 2012/13 and carried forward funds from 2012/13), \$491,000 net proceeds from new loans and \$67,500 from asset sales (vehicle trade-ins for annual rollover program). Part of the capital works program is dependent on the success of funding submissions to the Federal and State Government and reflect the Council's continuing efforts to maximise grants and minimise the financial demands on ratepayers.

Highlights of the 2013/14 Initiatives and Capital Works Program include:

- Complete the Queenscliff Recreation Reserve Masterplan (\$1,500,000 which is subject to \$1,000,000 government funding and \$500,000 borrowings);
 - Complete a Masterplan and stage 1 development plan for Queenscliff Kindergarten (\$450,000 of which \$300,000 is from government grants and \$75,000 contributed by the Kindergarten);
 - Complete a Masterplan for the Botanic Gardens (staged implementation over two years with \$150,000 in 2013/14 funded externally from Government proceeds);
 - Complete a Development Plan for the Queenscliff Lighthouse and a plan for the future of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve (\$108,000);
 - Complete the Ferry to Pier Foreshore Development project (\$300,000);
 - Complete the stage 1 construction of the Hesse Street Revitalisation Project (\$109,000);
 - Complete the survey and design brief for tender of the Hesse, Wharf and Symonds Streets roundabout in Queenscliff; and construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Admans Street and Point Lonsdale Road (\$774,000 in 2013/14 with further works in 2014/15);
 - Complete the stage 1 construction of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Revitalisation project (\$264,000 including \$40,000 externally funded);
 - Complete the Masterplan for the Hesse Street Hub in Queenscliff;
 - Complete the Pathways Strategy for Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale (\$35,000);
 - Seek funding to develop the Queenscliff sport and recreation precinct project (\$1,500,000 of which \$1,000,000 is from government grant supplemented by \$500,000 borrowings);
 - Seek funding to undertake a Development Plan for Fort Queenscliff (\$110,000 sought from State Government);
 - Work with Bellarine Railway to upgrade the Queenscliff Historic Railway (\$513,500 externally funded);
 - Upgrade the Queenscliff Senior Citizens Centre to incorporate the functions and needs of the Queenscliff Sea Scouts (\$260,000 subject to \$100,000 grant funding);
 - Develop a 'Tree Replacement Plan' for the Borough's historic cypress avenues and selected other tree species (\$20,000);
 - Review the provision of public toilet facilities in the Borough (\$10,000);
-



- Work with the Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Club and Point Lonsdale Boardriders to plan the development of shared clubroom facilities (\$15,000);
- Produce a concept plan for the future of Golightly Park (\$30,000);
- Seek funding for stage 2 construction of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Revitalisation project (\$500,000);
- Seek funding for stage 3 construction of the Point Lonsdale Foreshore Revitalisation project (\$278,000).

Net assets (net worth) is expected to increase by \$1,811,000 to \$72,445,000, although net current assets (adjusted working capital) will decrease by (\$1,349,000) as at 30 June 2014. This is mainly due to Council using cash reserves to fund the capital works program as well as debt servicing and redemption costs and, in addition, undertaking expenditure on the State Government funded Country Roads & Bridges Program for which grant income has been received in the 2012/13 financial year.

A high level Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for the years 2013/14 to 2016/17 has been developed to assist Council in adopting a budget within a longer term prudent financial framework. A key objective of the SRP is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the draft Council Plan.

Concluding Comments

This budget was developed through a process that included extensive community feedback via the Council Plan Community Survey. The 2013/14 draft Budget report and financial statements are presented to Council for endorsement, in preparation for the public submission process, required under Section 223 of the Local Government Act.

Recommendation:

Having complied with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989, that Council:

- 1. Endorse the 2013/14 draft Budget including the Strategic Resource Plan as presented in Appendix 3;**
- 2. Give public notice by way of newspaper advertisements and calls for public submissions by no later than Thursday 30 May 2013 in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989;**
- 3. Present the draft 2013/14 budget at two public information sessions to be held at 7:00pm on Monday 6 May 2013 at the Town Hall, Queenscliff and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at the City of Boroondara Municipal Offices, Camberwell.**



5. CLOSE OF MEETING